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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/693,684	10/24/2003	Paula J. Armstrong	GP-303117	8664

7590 06/04/2004

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EXAMINER

LE, DAVID D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3681

DATE MAILED: 06/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/693,684

Applicant(s)

ARMSTRONG ET AL.

Examiner

David D. Le

Art Unit

3681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 03/12/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This is the first Office action on the merits of Application No. 10/693,684, filed on 24 October 2003. Claims 1-7 are pending.

Documents

1. The following documents have been received and filed as part of the patent application:
 - Information Disclosure Statement, received on 03/12/04
 - Drawings, received on 03/12/04
 - Declaration and Power of Attorney, received on 03/12/04

Drawings

2. The drawings were received on 12 March 2004. These drawings are approved.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - Line 14, the word "an" should be --and--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. **Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.**

Claims 1-7:

- Claim 1 recites the limitation "a housing", which is previously recited on line 2 of the claim. This limitation is a double inclusion and it should be referred to as -- said housing--.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. **Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S.**

Patent No. 6,572,507 to Korkmaz et al. in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,135,912 to Tsukamoto et al.

Claims 1-7:

Korkmaz (Figs. 1 and 12; column 2, line 65 – column 3, line 10; column 4, lines 4-67) discloses an automatic transmission comprising:

- A transmission housing (column 3, line 2);
- An input shaft (10);
- An output shaft (11);

- A forward planetary gearset (2);
- A central planetary gearset (3);
- A rearward planetary gearset (4);
- Wherein the forward planetary gearset includes a planet carrier member (15) continuously connected with a ring gear member (18) of the central planetary gearset and a ring gear member (14) continuously connected with a planet carrier member (23) of the rearward planetary gearset and the output shaft;
- Wherein the central planetary gearset includes a planet carrier (19) continuously connected with a ring gear member (22) of the rearward planetary gearset and a sun gear member (16) continuously connected with the input shaft;
- Five torque-transmitting mechanisms (5-9) having friction disc structures;
- Wherein five torque-transmitting mechanisms include two clutches and three brakes (see Fig. 1); and
- Wherein the five torque-transmitting mechanism are engaged in combination of two to establish six forward speed ratios and one reverse speed ratio between the input shaft and the output shaft through the planetary gearsets (see Fig. 12).

Korkmaz does not explicitly disclose a transmission housing including a front end wall and a rear end wall, a band brake, a hub, and a plurality of servomechanisms.

Tsukamoto (Figs. 1 and 4; column 6, line 63 – column 15, line 56), on the other hand, teaches an automatic transmission comprising:

- A transmission housing including a front end wall and a rear end wall (see Fig. 5);
- A band brake (B-1) for stopping a sun gear (S2); and
- A plurality of servomechanisms (5, 6, 7, 9, and 9') being support in hubs such as boss (10a) (see Fig. 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time this invention was made to modify Korkmaz such that the brake 7 is the band type brake, the transmission housing includes front end and rear end walls, and the disc clutches and brakes include servomechanisms, in view of *Tsukamoto*, in order to improve the power transmission efficiency by structuring the shape of the transmission housing and arranging and, some cases, simplifying the torque transmitting mechanisms.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Mori et al. (U. S. Patent No. 3,811,343) teaches a gear train arrangement as shown in Fig. 12.
- Koivunen (U. S. Patent No. 6,071,208) teaches a compact multi-ratio automatic transmission using band type brake as shown in Figs. 6-9.
- Japanese Patent No. JP402118247A teaches a gear speed change gear as shown in Fig. 1.


Art Unit: 3681

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David D. Le whose telephone number is 703-305-3690. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (0700-1530).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles A Marmor can be reached on 703-308-0830. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


ddl


CHARLES A. MARMOR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3681